

Living a Christ-Like Life
&
Being a Christ-Like Example for Others

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When you think of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, what comes to mind?

Perhaps you are reminded of his birth talked about in the second chapter of Luke.

Maybe you think of his ministry here on Earth in the Holy Land as depicted in the Bible or on the American Continent stated in 3rd Nephi of the Book of Mormon where he visits the Nephite people and organized his church among them.

Others might be reminded of his Atonement, Crucifixion, and resurrection from the dead.

When I think of the Savior, all of those things come to my mind and each of them re-testify to me how great an example the Savior is to each of us.

Also when I think of Him, a certain hymn comes to mind. The title: "I Believe in Christ." I'm going to read a few verses from that hymn:

1. I believe in Christ; he is my King!
With all my heart to him I'll sing;
I'll raise my voice in praise and joy,
In grand amens my tongue employ.
I believe in Christ; he is God's Son.
On earth to dwell his soul did come.

He healed the sick; the dead he raised.
Good works were his; his name be praised.

2. I believe in Christ; oh blessed name!
As Mary's Son he came to reign
'Mid mortal men, his earthly kin,
To save them from the woes of sin.
I believe in Christ, who marked the path,
Who did gain all his Father hath,
Who said to men: "Come, follow me,
That ye, my friends, with God may be."

3. I believe in Christ--my Lord, my God!
My feet he plants on gospel sod.
I'll worship him with all my might;
He is the source of truth and light.
I believe in Christ; he ransoms me.
From Satan's grasp he sets me free,
And I shall live with joy and love
In his eternal courts above.

The following quote is from President
Howard W. Hunter in the October 1994
General Conference:

"I invite all members of the church to live with ever more attention to the life and example of the Lord Jesus Christ, especially the love and hope and compassion he displayed. I pray that we will treat each other with more kindness, more patience, more courtesy and forgiveness...Let us study the Master's every teaching and devote ourselves more fully to His example ... I feel impressed to give [this] continued emphasis."

Today I wish to speak to you on living a Christ-like life and being a Christ-like example for others. Jesus Christ is the greatest example anyone on the earth could ever have to follow. His perfect, sinless life shows us the path we can follow to live with our Father in Heaven again. There are many words that can be used to describe the Savior: humble, caring, loving, and gentle are just a handful of them.

He is no respecter of persons. When the Savior was on the earth, He wanted all people to know of the gospel. He was with the people in the Holy Land and on the American Continent. When Christ visited the Nephites, He called all that were in the multitude to go one by one to see him as it states in 3rd Nephi 11:13-15:

13 - “And it came to pass that the Lord spake unto them saying:”

14 - “Arise and come forth unto me, that ye may thrust your hands into my side, and also that ye may feel the prints of the nails in my hands and in my feet, that ye may know that I am the God of Israel and the God of the whole earth, and have been slain for the sins of the world.”

15 - “And it came to pass that the multitude went forth, and thrust their hands into his side, and did feel the prints of the nails in his hands and in his feet; and this they did do, going forth one by one until they had all gone forth, and did see with their eyes and did feel with their hands, and did know of a

surety and did bear record that it was he, of whom it was written by the prophets that should come.”

The scriptures compare the Savior to a beacon or a light. We are told to follow the example of Christ to be saved as it states in 2nd Nephi 31:16:

16 - “And now, my beloved brethren, I know by this that unless a man shall endure to the end, in following the example of the Son of the living God, he cannot be saved.”

In order to live with attention to the example of Christ we must be willing to forget ourselves and live the way he would have us live. I believe that Luke 9:23-24 says it nicely:

23 - “And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.”

24 - “For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it.”

When we live a Christ-like life and are following the example he set for us, we are willing to be a Christ-like example for our brothers and sisters here in this mortal existence on earth. As members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, we are examples to other people, and believe it or not people watch us.

No matter where you are or where you go, people are watching you. They are

watching the type of person you are and how you act day by day. People are curious about us, they wonder why we are the way we are. As we strive to be Christ-like examples, we can help our brothers and sisters here on earth grow closer to the Savior. We should be setting good examples for those who watch us. In Matthew 5:14-16, we find the following:

14 - "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid."

15 - "Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house."

16 - "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

As we set good Christ-like examples for others, many things can and will happen. We can make and strengthen friendships easier and we can find ways to bring up gospel subjects as we are talking to our friends and neighbors.

When I was serving in Rockledge, we were visiting with some members of the ward one evening. They had decided that since the gospel of Jesus Christ had brought so much joy and peace into their lives, they wanted to share it with their neighbors, but they didn't know how to do it or where to begin.

The answer to their question was to first be a friend, and second to set a Christ-like example for their neighbor. I can't

emphasize enough how important it is to set a Christ-like example and to live a Christ-like life.

Back home in one of my seminary classes, one of my friends shared the chorus of a song that her mother wrote:

“It’s going to take One Light one small flame one good friend to whisper his name. You be that one light - just one - Until he can turn his face to the Son.”

I promise you that as we strive to continue to put Christ first in our lives and by setting a Christ-like example for others there will be more joy and peace in our lives and we will be able to open up and talk to our friends and neighbors about the gospel and watch as their lives grow closer to the Savior and the perfect example he set for us.